

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed December 19, 2003 has been received and carefully noted. The amendments made herein and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

A "Petition for Extension of Time" for extending the due date for responding to the Office Action by three months and a credit card payment form to cover the fee payment (\$950.00) for the extension are filed with this Amendment. Authorization is granted to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing **Attorney Docket No. 101201-0002**, for any additional fees necessary for entry of this Amendment.

Claims 1, 4, 6-9 and 11 have been amended and claims 2, 3 and 10 have been canceled. Applicant submits that the amendments made herein are fully supported in the Specification and the drawings as originally filed, and therefore no new matter has been introduced. Accordingly, claims 1, 4-9 and 11-12 are pending in the present application and are respectfully submitted for reconsideration.

Claims 6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The objections are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 6 and 8 have been amended in response to the Examiner's objections. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 7 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(c) as being anticipated by the Watanabe et al. patent (U.S. Patent No. 5,767,806). Dependent claims 2 and 7 depend from independent claim 1. Claims 1, 7 and 9 have been amended and claim 2 has been canceled. The rejections of these claims are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 3-5 and 10-12, objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the content of dependent claims 2 and 3, and claims 2 and 3 have accordingly been canceled. Independent claim 9 has been amended to include the content of dependent claim 10, and claim 10 has accordingly been canceled. Dependent claims 4, 7 and 11 have been amended to reflect proper dependency in the claims based upon the cancellation of claims 2, 3 and 10. It is therefore submitted that the pending claims are patentable and are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number, indicated below, to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

Date: June 15, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



Marylee Jenkins
Registration No. 37,645
Attorney for Applicant

Customer No. 004372
ARENT FOX PLLC
1675 Broadway
New York, NY 10019
Tel: (212) 484-3928
Fax: (212) 484-3990

MLJ/my